BLACK MAGICK™

GREG RUCKA • NICOLA SCOTT

VOLUME 003

ASCENSION I

PORTSMOUTH
POLICE
0333

BLACK MAGICK™

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VOLUME 3: "ASCENSION I"

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Issue 012 cover by **NICOLA SCOTT**
(with **ERIC TRAUTMANN**)

Beltane. May Day.

"COME BRIGIT, FREYA, KOSTROMA, SWEET KORE, THOU GODDESS OF SPRING, OUR GREAT MOTHER ASCENDING. OAK KING OF ASHES, WALK AGAIN IN THESE WOODS, ENGAGE US ONCE MORE, OUR CYCLE UNENDING.

"OUR DARK NIGHTS BEHIND, OUR BRIGHT DAYS AHEAD, COME DANCE THROUGH THESE FORESTS 'TIL DAWN FINDS US A'BED.

"WITH WINE AND A SONG, USHER FAIR SUMMER IN--

"--WITH A KISS AND A TUMBLE, LET NEW LIFE BEGIN!

"WITH OAK AND ASH AND THORN, LET NEW LIFE BEGIN. WITH OAK AND ASH AND THORN, LET NEW LIFE BEGIN. WITH OAK AND ASH AND THORN, LET NEW LIFE BEGIN!

"SO MOTE IT BE."

--BLESSINGS AND CHARITY AND LONG LIFE AND HEALTH!

AS LOVELY A HANDFAST AS EVER IT'S BEEN MY PLEASURE TO ATTEND!

WE CAN SAY THE SAME!

I SHOULD FUCKING WELL HOPE SO!

COME ON, ROWAN.

WILL YOU NOT DANCE WITH ME, SISTER?

EVERYONE'S SO...

...FUCKING *HAPPY.*

BECAUSE THAT'S AS IT ***SHOULD*** BE, ROWAN. BECAUSE EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, WE ***DESERVE*** TO BE.

IF YOU WON'T ***DANCE,*** MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO ***A-MAYING?***

BENEDICT THERE WOULDN'T SAY NO IF YOU ASKED.

FUCK, IF YOU *DON'T* ASK, HE MIGHT COME OVER AND *ASK* ANYWAY.

YOU *NEED* TO GET *LAID*, RO.

GET YOUR SPIRIT AND YOUR BODY BACK TOGETHER.

SPOKEN LIKE A WITCH WHO'S *GETTING* SOME.

HOPEFULLY QUITE SOON, YES.

I DON'T LIKE HIM.

I DON'T RECALL *ASKING.*

I'VE GOT *SOME* EXPERIENCE WITH HIS KIND, YOU KNOW?

SO YOU'VE SAID, SEVERAL TIMES.

I'M GOING HOME.

I'M NOT SURE YOU SHOULD BE DRIVING.

I DON'T RECALL ASKING.

♪ NOW IS THE MONTH OF MAYING--

♪ --WHEN MERRY LADS ARE PLAYING--

♫ --FA LA LA LA LA--

♫ --EACH WITH HIS BONNY LASS, A-DANCING ON THE GRASS--

♫ --FA LA LA LA LA--

♪ --THE SPRING, CLAD ALL IN GLADNESS--

Be seen.

AS THE MISTRESS COMMANDS...

...IT IS MY *PLEASURE* TO *OBEY.*

IF THAT WERE TRUE, YOU'D HAVE FUCKED *OFF* A WHILE AGO.

WHERE'S YOUR LITTLE *FRIEND?*

AH, WELL...

...SOME THINGS ARE *STILL* CONSIDERED *INAPPROPRIATE* FOR CHILDREN.

VIEWER DISCRETION IS ADVISED AND ALL THAT.

YOU GOING TO INVITE ME *IN?*

I *TOLD* YOU--

--FUCK OFF!

Ah, someone's been a-maying--

ANOTHER WORD AND YOU'RE A FUCKING *NEWT*, HAWTHORNE.

I'VE GOT TO GET READY FOR MY *SHIFT*.

And a blessed Beltane upon you, too.

YOU
BASTARD--

--COME HERE!

OH GODDESS, IF YOUR FLIGHT WAS LATE I WAS GOING TO CURSE THE F.A.A., I SWEAR--

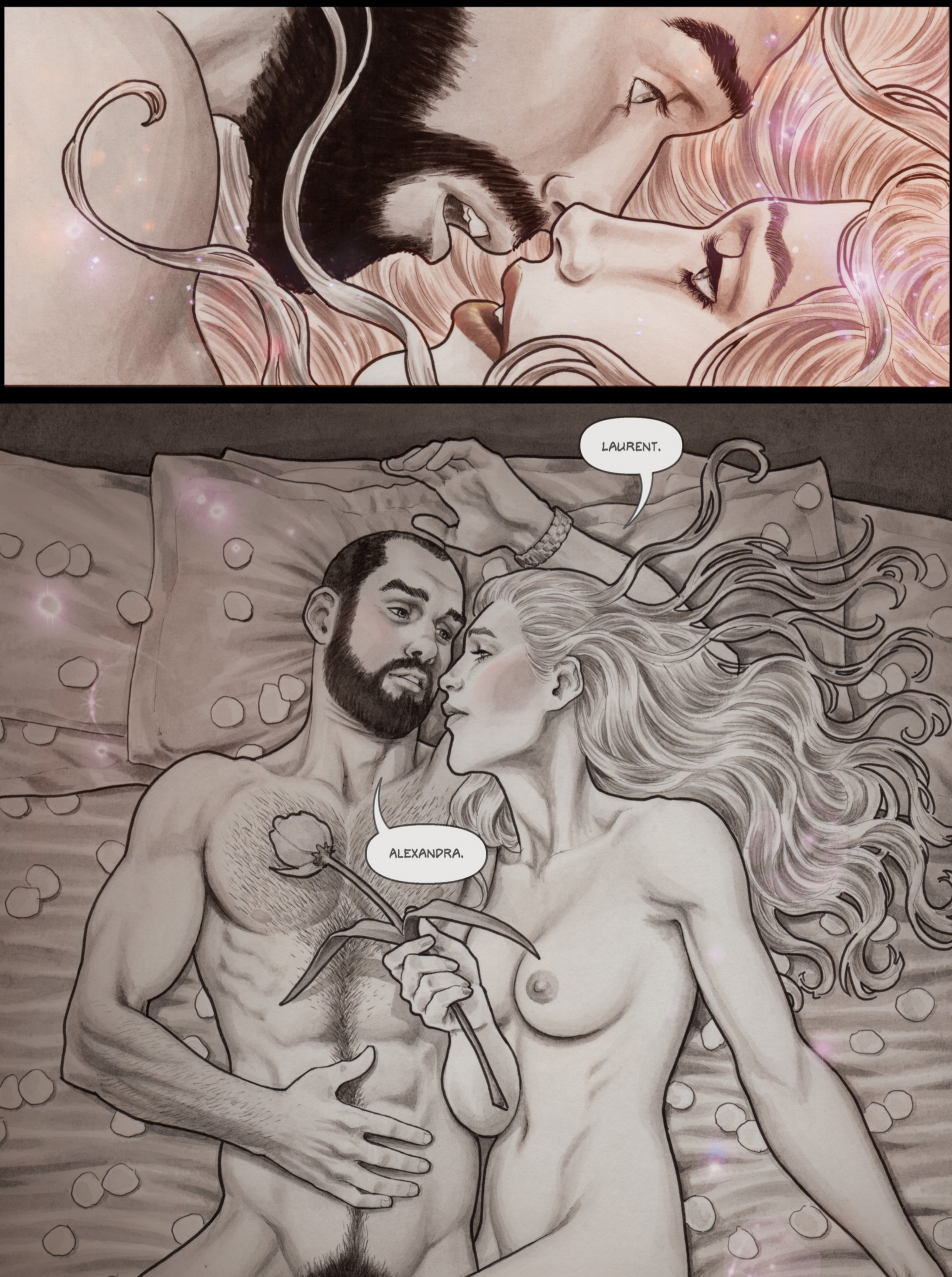
ALEXANDRA.

--WAIT, IS...IS THAT A TULIP?

MM-HM. HAPPY BELTANE, MY WITCH.

WE ARE GOING TO FUCK A LOT.

TRÈS BIEN.


LAURENT.
ALEXANDRA.

...DIDN'T THINK YOU'D ACTUALLY MAKE IT UNTIL YOU CALLED FROM NEW YORK.

TO BE *HONEST*, I DID NOT THINK I WOULD ACTUALLY *COME* UNTIL I CALLED FROM NEW YORK.

OH, I *KNEW* YOU'D COME.

SUCH A DIRTY MIND.

AND YOU *LOVE* IT.

THIS IS TRUE.

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD ASK MYSELF *WHY* I LOVE IT.

OOF! THIS IS *HEAVY*...

...DID YOU BRING *BOOKS?*

BELIEVE IT OR *NOT*, THIS IS A *RESEARCH* TRIP.

DO YOU *FEAR* I STOLE YOUR *WILL*, LAURENT?

I *KNOW* YOU DID.

I MIGHT EVEN CALL IT *MAGIC*.

BUT IT IS THE MAGIC *ALL* OF US MAY ENCOUNTER, IF WE ARE SO *BLESSED*.

THAT KIND OF MAGIC GOES *BOTH* WAYS.

THIS IS TRUE.

HAS YOUR FRIEND SAID ANYTHING *MORE* ABOUT WHAT TRANSPIRED LAST FALL?

NO. JUST THAT SHE *FELT* THE SPELL, TOO, THE *SAME* AS I.

BUT SHE'S *LYING* TO ME, LAURENT.

WHETHER IT WAS THE *SPELL* OR SOMETHING ELSE, SOMETHING *HAPPENED.*

SOMETHING HAPPENED THAT *CHANGED* HER...

...SOMETHING THAT *BROKE* HER *HEART*....

--SECURED THE WARRANT FOR THE DUPRES CASE...

...WHICH DETECTIVES PERRINI AND CHAFFEY WILL BE SERVING THIS MORNING.

I'D LIKE IT IF *ANOTHER* TEAM WENT WITH THEM ON THIS, SO *VOLUNTEERS?*

TASK CASE 1
CHAFFEY
COLT BLACK

WE CAN--

I ACTUALLY ALREADY TALKED TO FREEMAN AND INNES ABOUT IT.

INITIATIVE, I LOVE IT, DETECTIVE CHAFFEY.

MOVING ON, THE ATTLEE CASE GOES TO TRIAL THIS WEEK, AND I DO *NOT* WANT THE D.A. LOSING THIS ON A TECHNICALITY, SO...

...KILLING US, HERE, GIVE UP SIX POINTS WHEN WE'RE BELOW THE RED LINE.

NEED A NEW MANAGER, RUSS.

ROWAN. SLICE AND DICE DOWN IN COIL, CAPTAIN WANTS US TO TAKE IT.

I'LL MEET YOU AT THE CAR.

DONE DEAL.

OOOH, A *JIGSAW PUZZLE!*

YEAH, WELL, HOPEFULLY SEAN'S FOUND ALL THE PIECES...

...I HATE HAVING TO TRY AND FIND THE EDGES.

JESUS, CHAFFEY...

...I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* YOU DID, BUT YOU SURE AS FUCK *BURNED* THAT BRIDGE WHEN YOU *DID* IT, HUH?

GO TO HELL, RUSS.

OKAY. *THAT'S* MESSY. *KNIFE* DID THAT?

BY ALL MEANS.

BIG KNIFE, MAYBE A *MACHETE.* WANT ME TO *ROLL* HIM?

NHH

NOT A *LOT* OF *BLOOD* AROUND. WHOEVER DID THE *CARVING* DIDN'T DO IT *HERE.*

SHIT...

...I KNOW THIS GUY.

GABRIEL ORTEGA. SEVENTEEN, MEMBER OF THE DUSK DRAGONS.

JUST A *KID.*

COIL'S *NOT* DUSK DRAGON TERRITORY.

NOPE...

...BELONGS TO THE SHRIEKERS, AND THEY DON'T *SHARE.*

ADD IN THE *MACHETE,* THIS IS *DEFINITELY* GANG-RELATED...

...I'M GONNA CALL PEGG AND LET HIM KNOW.

YOU WANT US TO PACK HIM *UP*...

...OR YOU NEED MORE *TIME* WITH HIM?

...ECTIVE? DETECTIVE BLACK?

MHM?

YOU GET WHAT YOU ***NEED*** OFF HIM?

YEAH, SEAN.

THINK I DID.

...AND WILLIAM FROOS, GOES BY "B-BOY." YEAH...

...OH, NO, BRING *ALL* OF THEM IN. WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO INTERVIEW EACH SEPARATELY...

...HOLD ON...

BLACK! WHAT'RE YOU *DOING?*

JUST CHECKING SOMETHING OUT.

Obv. 2

...FOUND HIM HIDING IN ONE OF THE *BOXCARS* IN THE YARD...

...*BLOOD* ON HIS DOC MARTENS AND TRYING TO DROP THE *COMBAT KNIFE* HE WAS CARRYING WHEN SHE *COLLARED* HIM.

COMBAT KNIFE?

YEAH, ONE OF THOSE BIG, RAMBO-STYLE PIECES OF *CUTLERY.* SEAN SAYS IT'S AN EASY MATCH AS THE MURDER WEAPON.

MISTER FITZ THERE IS *DEAD TO RIGHTS.*

GET THE CONFESSION.

THE ROLL ROWAN'S ON RIGHT NOW? WE'RE GONNA HAVE THE *PAPERWORK* WRAPPED UP BY BEER O'CLOCK.

YOUR LIPS TO GOD'S *EARS,* DETECTIVE COLT.

klk

--MY FUCKIN' NAME IS **RAGE!**

YEAH, THAT'LL PLAY WELL TO A **JURY,** *GARY.*

I WANT MY FUCKIN' LAWYER, BITCH.

CAN I TELL YOU WHAT I WANT?

I WANT YOU TO *CONFESS*, GARY. JUST *CONFESS*.

JUST CONFESS THAT YOU *MURDERED* GABRIEL ORTEGA.

OH, BY THE WAY...

YEAH, YOU... YOU...GOT IT RIGHT...

SMILE

...DID I SPELL YOUR *NAME* RIGHT?

...YOU...YOU SPELLED IT RIGHT....

GOOD.

LAST CHANCE, GARY...

...YOU KILLED HIM, DIDN'T YOU?

...I DID IT...I DID IT...

...ME AND EIGHT-BALL AND B-BOY...

...HE WAS IN OUR HOOD, WE...WE HADDA TEACH HIM A LESSON....

NICELY DONE, DETECTIVE BLACK.

THANK YOU, DETECTIVE COLT.

AS I PRETTY MUCH RODE YOUR COATTAILS ON THIS ONE, I'LL HANDLE THE PAPERWORK.

YOU LET ME BUY YOU A DRINK DOWN AT THE COPPER SHIELD AFTER?

I'LL MEET YOU THERE.

HOMICIDE REPORT

CE DEPARTMENT

CITY OF PORTSMO

LOR PERSON KILLED | FIRST NAME | MIDDLE NAME | RACE | SEX | AGE | RESIDENCE OF PERSON KILLED | OFFENSE SERIAL

EY | TITLE OR RELATIONSHIP | RACE | SEX | AGE | ADDRESS OF PERSON KILLED | PHONE OF PERS

S REPORTED (CRIME) | AFTER INVESTIGATION CHANGED TO

OCCURENCE — STREET AND NUMBER OR INTERSECTION | DIVISION | PLATOON | BEAT | OFFICER MAKING REPORT | I.D. NO. | NAME

EEK | DATE OF OCCURENCE | TIME OF DAY | DATE REPORTED | TIME REPORTED | REPORT RECEIVED BY | RECEIVED — TIME — TYPED

DESCRIPTION OF DEAD PERSON

HEIGHT | WEIGHT | EYES | HAIR | BEARD | COMPLEXION | IDENTIFYING SCARS, MARKS, ETC. | CLOTHING

NOTIFIED | NAME OF CORONER ATTENDING — TIME OF ARRIVAL | NAME OF PROSECUTOR ATTENDING — TIME OF ARRIVAL

A.M.
P.M.

CED DEAD BY PHYSICIAN | PERSON WITH WHOM ACCUSED LIVED OR ASSOCIATED

F OFFENSE (GIVE CIRCUMSTANCES OF OCCURENCE OF OFFENSE AND ITS INVESTIGATION) | USE BOTH SIDES OF THIS SHEET

AKEN INTO CUSTODY | ADDRESS | WITNESS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY | ADDRESS

USPECTED OR POSSIBLE MOTIVES

DESCRIPTION OF SUSPECTS OR PERSONS WANTED

KNOWN | ALIAS | ADDRESS | SEX | RACE | AGE | HEIGHT | WEIGHT | EYES | HAIR | COMPLEXION

NATIVITY | OCCUPATION | DRESS AND OTHER MARKS | CAUSE FOR SUSPICION

KNOWN | ALIAS | ADDRESS | SEX | RACE | AGE | HEIGHT | WEIGHT | EYES | HAIR | COMPLEXION

NATIVITY | OCCUPATION | DRESS AND OTHER MARKS | CAUSE FOR SUSPICION

Issue 013 cover by **NICOLA SCOTT**
(with **ERIC TRAUTMANN**)

ANOTHER?

AARON, AARON, AARON...

COPPER SHIELD

VAN METER RD

...DID I SAY STOP?

NO, ROWAN, YOU DID NOT.

THIS A "GOOD DAY" OR A "BAD DAY" KIND OF DRINKING?

CAN'T IT BE BOTH?

HIT ME AGAIN.

LIGHT?

ENJOYING *BELTANE?*

PISS OFF, FUCKFACE.

YOU KNOW, IF ANYONE *ELSE* CALLED ME THAT, I'D HAVE THEM DRINKING *SHIT* THROUGH A *STRAW* WHILE BURNING IN A LAKE OF MOLTEN *IRON.*

LUCKY FOR *ME* THAT I'M A *SPECIAL* CASE, THEN.

YOU ARE.

YOU'VE BEEN *CONSIDERING* MY *OFFER*, I ASSUME?

I HAVE *NOT.*

IT WASN'T ACTUALLY A *QUESTION.* I KNOW YOU *HAVE.*

AREN'T YOU TIRED OF BEING *ALONE*, ROWAN?

AREN'T YOU TIRED OF *DENYING* YOURSELF?

YOU COULD HAVE HIM...

...NOT *JUST* HIM, SO MUCH *MORE.*

THINK OF ALL THE *GOOD* YOU COULD DO IF YOU ONLY *LET* YOURSELF.

YOU'VE ALREADY *STARTED*, WE *BOTH* KNOW IT...

...JUST...*LET* YOURSELF *BE* YOURSELF...

...YOU KNOW YOU *WANT* TO, ROWAN.

I *TOLD* YOU--

--GO BACK TO HELL!

...UH...

...SOMETHING I SAID, ROWAN?

SORRY.

SORRY, JUST...ARGUING WITH MYSELF.

ROWAN?

YOU DOING OKAY?

NEVER BEEN BETTER.

YOU STILL *HERE?*

HMM?

WHY'RE YOU STILL HERE, MORGAN? YOU'RE OFF THE *CLOCK.*

GO HOME TO YOUR *FAMILY.*

JUST FINISHING UP THE PAPERWORK ON THE DUPRES THING.

EVERYTHING WITH YOU AND PERRINI WORKING *OUT?*

WITH MIKE? YEAH, EVERYTHING'S *FINE.*

HE'S *OLD SCHOOL,* YOU KNOW, SO IT TOOK US A WHILE TO FIND OUR *RHYTHM.*

WORKING WITH A NEW *PARTNER* CAN BE HARD, I KNOW.

NAH, WE'RE OKAY.

THINK WE'VE FINALLY FIGURED EACH OTHER OUT.

CAPTAIN?

HERE'S THE *THING:* YOUR PERSONAL SHIT? DETECTIVE BLACK'S PERSONAL SHIT? IT'S *JUST* THAT, *PERSONAL* SHIT.

AS LONG AS IT STAYS *OUT* OF THE SQUADROOM AND OUT OF THE *JOB*, I DON'T CARE WHAT'S GOING ON, I REALLY *DON'T.*

BUT IT LEAKS *INTO* MY SQUADROOM, I'M GONNA TAKE *NOTICE.*

BULL-SHIT.

IT HASN'T--

SIX MONTHS YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN *AVOIDING* EACH OTHER.

SIX MONTHS YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN *GLARING* AT THE OTHER ONE'S BACK.

AND I'VE *TAKEN NOTICE,* DETECTIVE CHAFFEY.

AND I'M NOT THE *ONLY* ONE.

SO THIS SHIT GETS *SORTED* OR I'M GONNA HAVE TO *SORT* IT *MYSELF.*

IS THAT *UNDERSTOOD?*

YES, SIR.

GOOD.

YOU'RE A *GOOD* DETECTIVE, MORGAN.

ROWAN'S A *GOOD* DETECTIVE.

I'D RATHER NOT HAVE TO *REASSIGN* EITHER OF YOU.

DETECTIVE CHAFFEY...

...INSPECTOR BELLOWES AND I WERE WONDERING IF YOU COULD GIVE US A FEW *MINUTES?*

CAN THIS WAIT, PRESTES?

I'M TRYING TO FINISH UP SO I CAN GET *HOME* TO MY WIFE AND SON, Y'KNOW?

SURE, I UNDERSTAND.

WHY DON'T YOU COME BY THE OFFICE *TOMORROW?*

I APPRECIATE IT, INSPECTOR.

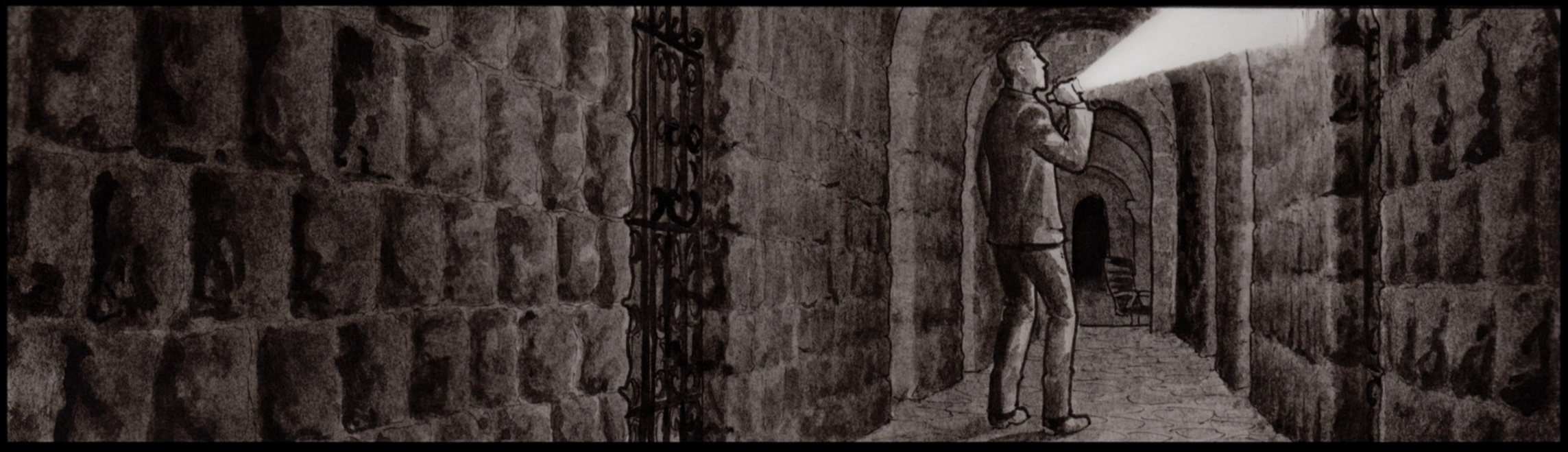
NO PROBLEM AT ALL. SAY, TEN O'CLOCK?

I'LL BE THERE.

OH, WHEN YOU *DO* COME BY, DETECTIVE CHAFFEY...

...IF YOU COULD BRING YOUR *NOTES* ON THE *BRUCE DUNRIDGE* MURDER, THAT'D BE *GREAT.*

HAVE A GOOD NIGHT, DETECTIVE.


CONTRE-MESURES

QUI EST LÀ?

J'AI DIT, QUI EST LÀ?

chak

GHHH

HHH S-STEPAN...?

...STEPAN...

...STEPAN, QUE FAITES-VOUS...?

STEPAN?

NON!

STEPAN!

HEY, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

NO SECRETS BETWEEN *PARTNERS*, RIGHT?

YEAH, WELL, THAT'S KINDA MY *QUESTION*, RIGHT THERE.

WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND CHAFFEY?

AW, SHIT, NICKY, *SERIOUSLY?*

WE WERE HAVING A GOOD TIME AND EVERYTHING AND YOU BRING *THAT* UP?

I'M A *DETECTIVE*, I'M *CURIOUS* BY *NATURE*.

LOOK, *SOMETHING* HAPPENED, EVERYONE IN THE SQUAD *KNOWS* IT.

YOU TWO WERE BREAD AND BUTTER, NOW YOU'LL HARDLY *TALK* TO EACH OTHER.

THINGS *CHANGED*.

YOU FUCK HIM?

WHAT? NO!

JESUS, NICKY!

OH, DON'T PRETEND YOU'RE A *PRUDE* SUDDENLY, RO.

YOU'VE *GOT* TO KNOW THAT'S WHAT SOME OF US WERE *WONDERING.*

RIGHT, I'M GONNA *BONE* MY *MARRIED* PARTNER WHILE HIS *WIFE* IS *PREGNANT.*

HEY, SOME PEOPLE WOULD SAY THAT'S *PRECISELY* WHEN AND WHY IT WOULD HAPPEN.

OH, YOU'RE SAYING *YOU* WOULD? YOU WANT TO CLIMB THAT *RIDE,* FEEL FREE, THE ROAD IS *CLEAR.*

NAH...

...I DON'T GO THAT WAY.

OH.

YEAH.

...I THINK WE'RE *DRUNK.*

YEAH, I THINK WE ARE, TOO.

ANOTHER?

BLANTON'S, RIGHT?

MAKE IT A *DOUBLE*, MY GOOD MAN.

...THE EMAIL I SENT, IN ADDITION TO THE OTHER FILES...

...PLEASE CALL ME BACK AS SOON AS YOU GET THIS.

STILL NO ANSWER?

NON...

...AND I FIND IT MORE THAN A LITTLE *TROUBLING*, ALEX.

IT IS UNLIKE ANNE-MARIE TO BE REMISS IN HER DUTIES TO THE ORDER...

...AND OUR RULES REQUIRE THAT SOMEONE ALWAYS MONITORS COMMUNICATIONS WHEN ONE OF US IS IN THE *FIELD*.

SHE SHOULD'VE GOTTEN BACK TO ME HOURS AGO.

SO.

SO.

YOU HAVE TO TALK TO HER.

I KNOW.

BEST IF YOU DO IT IN *PERSON*.

I KNOW.

SO NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS.

WHAT WAS *THAT* FOR?

MORALE BOOSTING.

MINE, NOT YOURS.

DON'T WAIT UP FOR ME.

I *WILL* WAIT UP FOR YOU.

SO, ROWAN, HERE'S THE *THING.* I'VE BEEN *BANGING* THE LEADER OF *AIRA* AND...

...YEAH, NOT THE BEST WAY TO *START.* OKAY...

WAIT...

...WAIT, *WAIT...*

...LOOK, RO, WE'VE BEEN *FRIENDS* FOREVER, AND I'M *WORRIED* ABOUT YOU...

...ARE WE *SURE* WE WANT TO DO THIS?

I DON'T WANT TO...

...I DON'T WANT TO FUCK UP A *GOOD* THING, Y'KNOW?

...AND I THINK YOU'VE BEEN...I DON'T WANT TO SAY *LYING* TO ME BUT...

...BUT YOU'VE BEEN ACTING *STRANGE* AND THERE WAS THAT *THING* THAT HAPPENED AND WHAT I'M TRYING TO *SAY* IS...

MAYBE WE *SHOULDN'T.*

MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T.

...WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS I THINK YOU'VE GOT A *DEMON* PROBLEM AND...

...*FUCK*...

...FUCKITY-FUCK-FUCK--

NICKY, ALL MY LIFE IS *ABOUT* IS DOING WHAT I *SHOULD* AND *NOT* DOING WHAT I *SHOULDN'T.*

SINCE I WAS THIRTEEN. MY *WHOLE* LIFE, NICKY.

--FUCK FUCK *FUCK* DAMMIT THIS SHOULDN'T BE SO *HARD!*

NEVER WHAT I *WANT.*

"THIS IS WHAT I WANT...

ESB-11-96

"...I WANT YOU...."

HOMICIDE REPORT

Issue 014 cover by **NICOLA SCOTT**
(with **ERIC TRAUTMANN**)

мимм мим--

ммимм--

MOTHER--

--имм--

--FUCK--

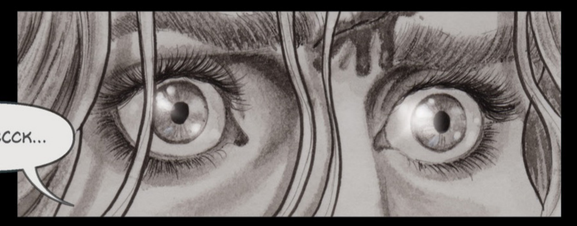
--ммм--

--ER!

HNH

OW FFF...

...FFUUUU...


...UUUCCCCCK...

...C'MON C'MON--

--COME ON--

--NO NO NO--

--OPEN--

мимимм

ммимм

DON'T--

--JUST FUCKING *DO NOT*, YOU HEAR ME?

I HAVE MY *OWN* POWER. I AM *NOT* GOING TO BE SOME FUCKING *VICTIM*--

--THIS IS YOUR *WARNI*--

--NGGAAAAA!!!

HNN HUH NHNN

L-LAST W-WARNING, YOU POLLY POCKET FROM HELL...

...I CAN *DESTROY* YOU, SEND YOU *BACK* WHERE YOU CAME FROM...

...I CAN *DO* IT...YOU THINK I'M *BLUFFING*...

...I KNOW YOUR *TRUENAME.*

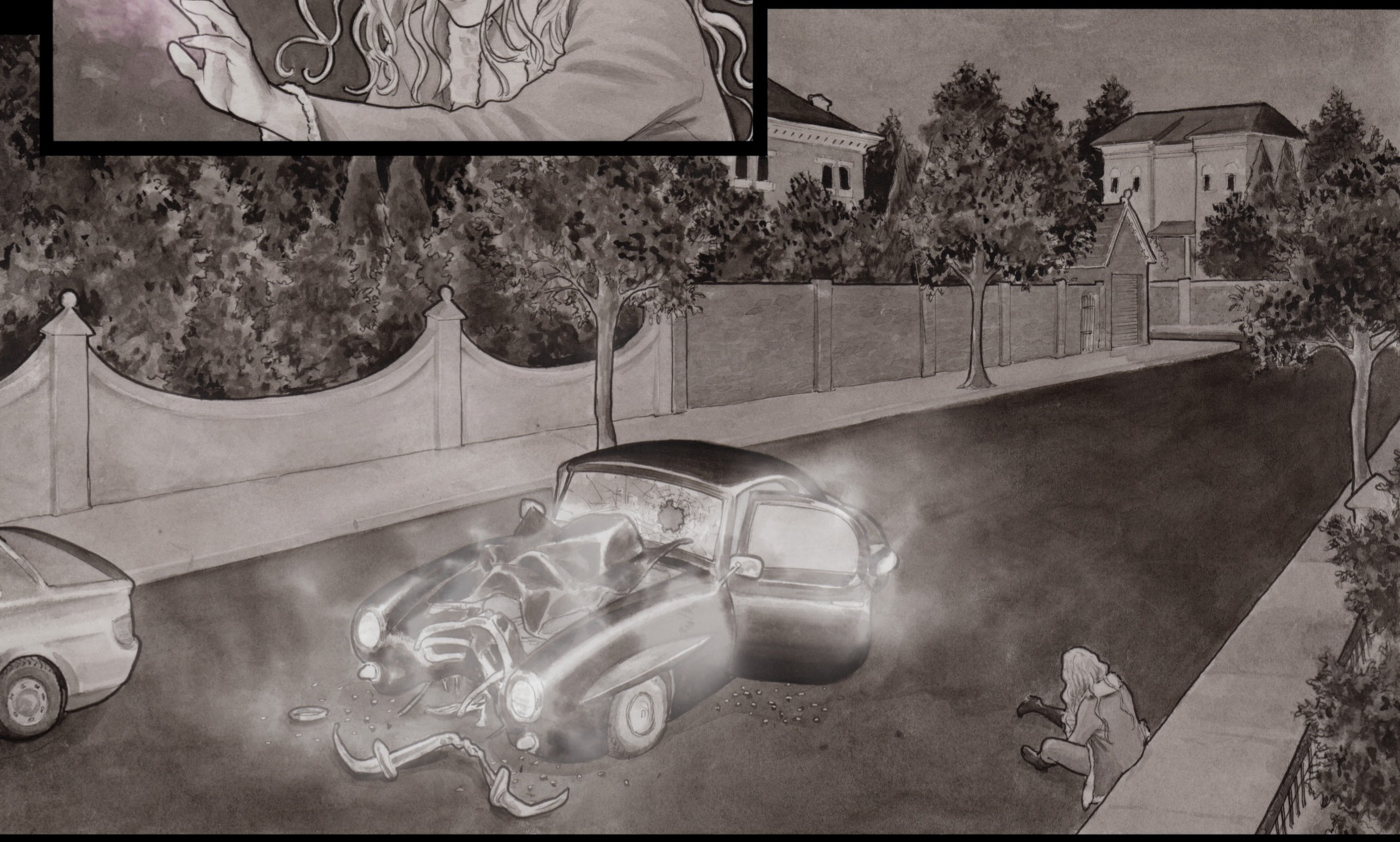
GHHUH--

--NHAA A-AR-DA-HT--

--LI-Í-LL-I--

--TUH...

...y'izben-et....



MOTHER--

--FUCKER!

RIGHT.
IT COULD HARDLY HURT *MORE*, AFTER ALL...

Mistress?

Mistress!

Mistress, something--

HUSH, LITTLE ONE...

WE WOULDN'T WANT TO *WAKE* THEM, NOW.

WOULD WE?

You shouldn't **be** here.

You **can't** be **here!**

CAN'T I?

AND YET HERE I AM.

The **wards,** they--

MHM, OH, *YES*, THE *WARDS*.

TELL ME, *HOW* WILL THE WARDS KEEP ME *AWAY*...

...WHEN SHE DOESN'T EVEN *KNOW* MY *NAME*?

YOU FORGET YOURSELF, LITTLE ONE.

YOU FORGET WHAT A FAMILIAR TRULY IS.

YOU FORGET THAT YOU BELONG TO MY KINGDOM.

DON'T FORGET IT AGAIN.

She is of the **Mothers.**

She is **powerful.**

You can be as **petty,** as **sadistic** as you like with **me,** I can't stop you.

Torment me, **torture** me as you may.

But we **both** know what she can **do.**

What she **can** do, if she **allows.**

YES, WE *DO.*

THAT'S PRECISELY THE *POINT.*

nok nok nok

MRH?

Alexandra.

noknokNOK

OKNOKNOKNOK

...RO...?

...JESUS, IT'S FOUR IN THE MORNING.

BE RIGHT BACK.

NOKNOKNOKNOKNO

DON'T GO ANYWHERE.

NOKNOKNOKNOK--

FUCK *ME*, I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO HAVE TO KNOCK IT *DOWN*.

ALEX, JESUS, WHAT--

WE HAVE TO *TALK*, ROWAN.

AND I NEED A *DRINK*.

I NEED *ALL* THE DRINKS.

ALEX, THIS ISN'T--

NO, NO, ROWAN, I'VE BEEN PUTTING THIS OFF FOR TOO *LONG*.

THERE'S SHIT *HAPPENING*, WE HAVE TO TALK.

WE HAVE TO TALK *NOW*.

WHAT?

WHAT?

...OH.
HI.
HELLO.
I'M NICHOLE.
ALEX.
ALEX.
SO, ARE YOU AN *EX* OR A *CURRENT*, ALEX?
NICHOLE--
YEAH, CLEARLY THIS WAS A *BAD* TIME.
I'LL LEAVE YOU TWO *ALONE*.
KILLED A *DEMON* ON THE WAY OVER HERE, TONIGHT.
JUST THOUGHT YOU SHOULD *KNOW*.
GO BACK TO YOUR A-MAYING.
WE'LL TALK *TONIGHT*.

NICKY?

IT'S COOL, ROWAN.

YOU'RE GOING?

SHE'S PRETTY AS HELL BUT A LITTLE ON THE *STICK* SIDE FOR MY TASTES, BUT I CERTAINLY CAN'T *BLAME* YOU.

WAS A *FUN* NIGHT, THANKS FOR THE *TUMBLE.*

ALEX IS MY *OLDEST* FRIEND, NICKY!

OH, YEAH, I COULD *TELL.*

NICHOLE!

SEE YOU AT WORK.

deet-deet

deet-deet

deet-deet
deet-deet

deet-deet
deet-deet

deet-deet
deet-deet

deet-deet
deet-deet

CONTRE-MESURES

deet-deet

deet-deet

deet-deet

DEET-DEET
DEET-DEET

ANNE-MARIE, OÙ T'ES?

BON DIEU DE MERDE.

ALEXANDRA--

HEY, BABE.

SO THE *GOOD* NEWS IS WE GOT THE *TRUENAME* RIGHT FOR THE LITTLE ONE.

THE *BAD* NEWS IS THEIR *STINK* IS ALL OVER ROWAN'S PLACE.

SHE WAS THE MANIFESTATION OF THE ARDAT LILI, THEN.

CREEPY LITTLE THING.

MOUTH STITCHED UP AND PLAYING WITH A DOLL.

THEY ADAPT...

...LIKE WE *ALL* MUST, OR PERISH.

SHE WANTED ME *DEAD.*

THAT'S THE *SECOND* TIME ONE OF THOSE HELLSPAWN HAS TRIED TO KILL ME.

THEN I PRAY THERE WILL NOT BE A *THIRD* ATTEMPT.

YOU AND ME BOTH, LAURENT.

BUT IT RAISES SO MANY *QUESTIONS...*

...WHY *ME?* WHY *NOW?*

I'M ALL THE MORE *CERTAIN* THEY'RE FOCUSING ON ROWAN, YOU COULD *FEEL* IT IN HER HOUSE.

WHY CAN'T *SHE?*

LAURENT?

I MUST LEAVE, ALEXANDRA. I MUST RETURN TO PONT-L'ÉVÊQUE.

I SHOULD HAVE HEARD FROM ANNE-MARIE BY NOW.

I HAVE TRIED REACHING OUR OTHER OPERATIVES, BUT *ALL* COMMUNICATIONS ARE *DOWN.*

SOMETHING HAS *HAPPENED*, AND I AM WORRIED, AND NOW *THIS*...

...AND I AM *AFRAID* TO LEAVE YOU *ALONE.*

I *CAN* TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.

AS YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN I WORRY *LESS.*

I LOVE YOU, ALEXANDRA.

I SHALL RETURN AS QUICKLY AS I CAN.

LAURENT.

YOU LEAD *AIRA*. YOU ARE NOT JUST *A* WITCHHUNTER, YOU ARE *THE* WITCHHUNTER.

BUT YOU LOOK ME IN THE *EYE* AND YOU SAY THAT YOU *LOVE* ME?

I DO.

HURRY *BACK.*

PORTSMOUTH AIRPORT

AETHER AIR

12:05 AA
12:05 EB C
12:10 CG C
12:20 NS 9
12:25 SK 3
12:30 DJ 1
12:40 AA C
12:45 NS 2
13:55 GR C
13:00 ET C
13:15 DJ 2

EXIT

HOMICIDE REPORT

CE DEPARTMENT

CITY OF PORTSMO

LOR PERSON KILLED | FIRST NAME | MIDDLE NAME | RACE | SEX | AGE | RESIDENCE OF PERSON KILLED | OFFENSE SERIAL

EY | TITLE OR RELATIONSHIP | RACE | SEX | AGE | ADDRESS OF PERSON KILLED | PHONE OF PERS

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A.M.
P.M.

CED DEAD BY PHYSICIAN | PERSON WITH WHOM ACCUSED LIVED OR ASSOCIATED

F OFFENSE (GIVE CIRCUMSTANCES OF OCCURENCE OF OFFENSE AND ITS INVESTIGATION) | USE BOTH SIDES OF THIS SHEET

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DESCRIPTION OF SUSPECTS OR PERSONS WANTED

KNOWN | ALIAS | ADDRESS | SEX | RACE | AGE | HEIGHT | WEIGHT | EYES | HAIR | COMPLEXION

NATIVITY | OCCUPATION | DRESS AND OTHER MARKS | CAUSE FOR SUSPICION

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NATIVITY | OCCUPATION | DRESS AND OTHER MARKS | CAUSE FOR SUSPICION

Issue 015 cover by **NICOLA SCOTT**
(with **ERIC TRAUTMANN**)

NNAAAAYYYAAARRRRRRRR

FUCK FUUUUCK--

--FFFUUUUCKK YOOOOU YOU FUCKING FUCK--

--WHAT YOU DID YOU FUCK DID YOU SEE--

--WHAT SHE DID DID YOU *SEE* WHAT THAT *BITCH* DID...

...WHAT THAT FUCKING *HUMAN* DID...

...WHAT THAT *WITCH* OF THE *GREY* DID...

...TO OUR BEAUTIFUL *BABY*...?

...DO YOU *SEE*?

IT'S HARD TO *MISS*.

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WISH ME TO *DO* ABOUT IT?

BRING HER *BACK!*

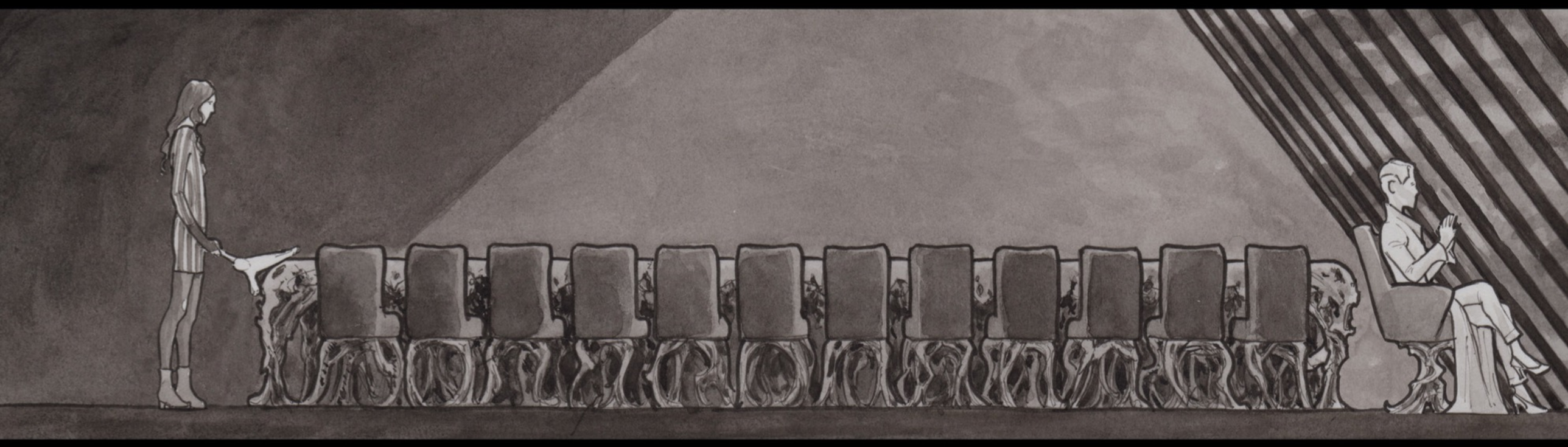
A *CENTURY* OR *THREE* RECONSTITUTING WILL DO HER *GOOD*. TEACH HER SOME *MANNERS*, MAYBE.

THEN *AVENGE* HER, *PUNISH* THAT CU--

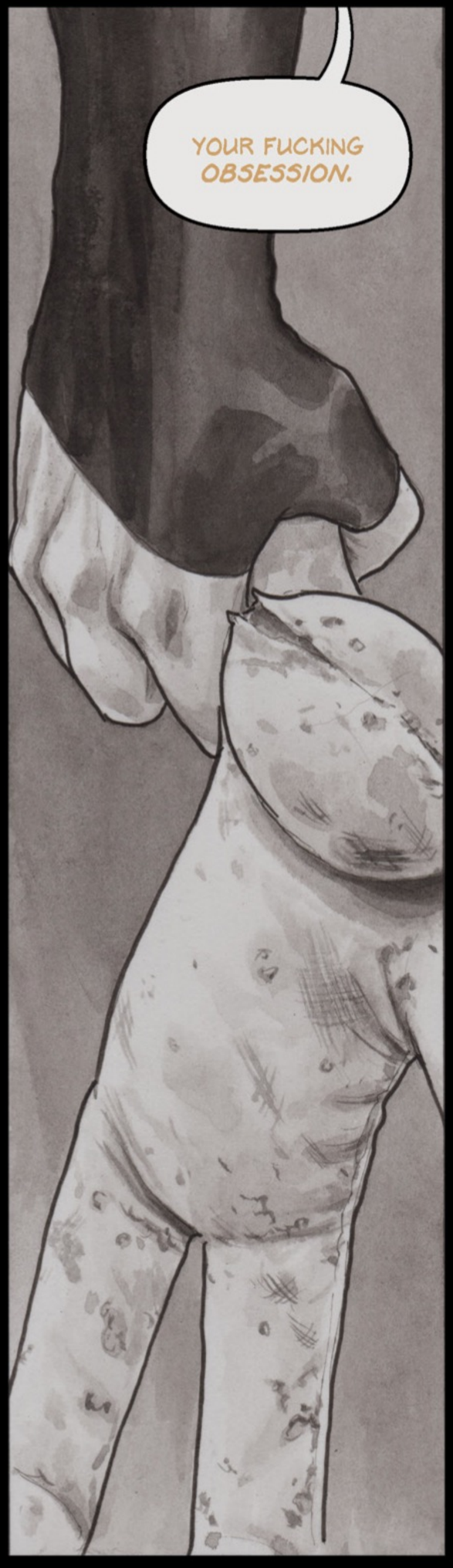
NO. LITTLE *SHIT* HAD IT *COMING*.

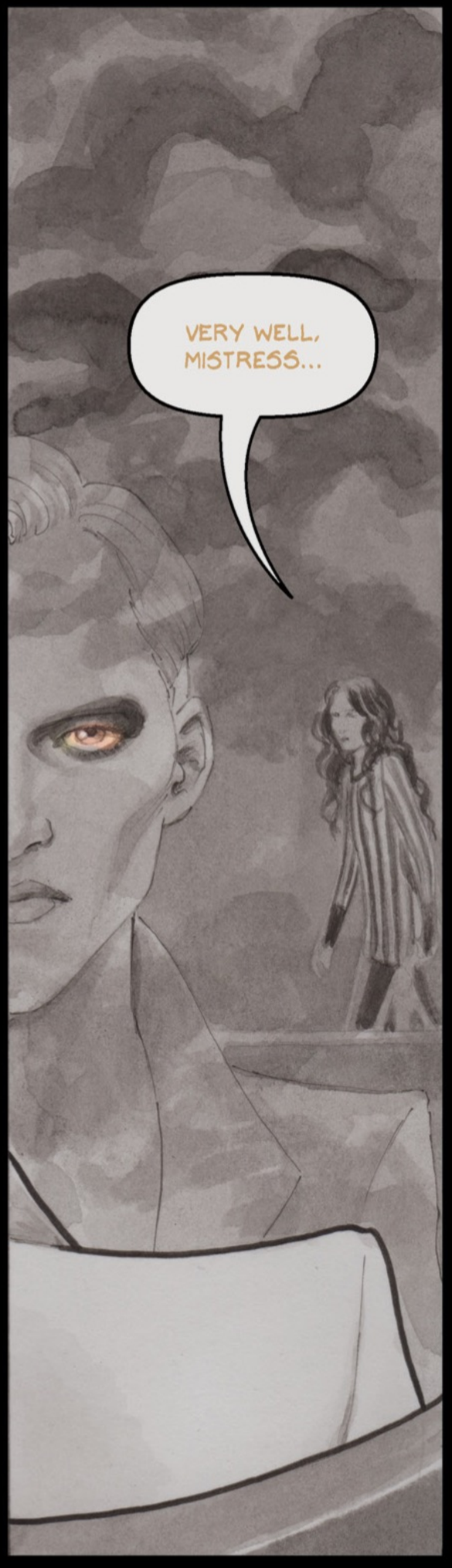
I TOLD HER TO STAY *AWAY*.

SHE PICKED THE *WRONG* VICTIM. SERVES THE *BRAT* RIGHT.



YOUR FUCKING GAMES.
YOUR FUCKING PLANS.


YOUR FUCKING OBSESSION.


VERY WELL, MISTRESS...

...IF YOU WON'T PUNISH HER...

...THEN I WILL DO--

--IT MYSE--

--GHHNNNNN

NNH HHNU NNG

GGNN M-MISTRESS...

...F-FUH-FORGIVE MHU-MUH ME...

...I-I FU-FUH-FORGOT MHU-MUH-MY-SELF--

...NYAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHH

YES.

YES.

YOU *REALLY* DID.

MY PLANS REGARDING THE WITCH OF THE *BLACK* AND THE WITCH OF THE *GREY* ARE JUST THAT, *MINE.*

YOU DO NOT NEED TO *KNOW* NOR *UNDERSTAND* THEM...

...JUST *FOLLOW* THEM...

...WITHOUT *QUESTION.*

Did you **call** her?

Mistress?

Have you called **Alexandra?**

I LEFT HER A *MESSAGE.*

You should try **again--**

Try **again,** Mistress--

YOU'RE ***VERY*** INSISTENT ABOUT THIS, HAWTHORNE...

...YOU GOING TO ***TELL*** ME ***WHY?***

I...

...**cannot.**

CAN NOT OR WILL NOT?

Mistress, **please**...

...I am **bound**, you **know** I am bound to your **service**...

...I would serve **willingly** even were I not...

...there are **things** I **cannot** do, you know this.

You **must** talk with her, Mistress.

Please. Go and **see** her.

ALL RIGHT, RELAX, OLD MAN.

I'LL GO BY AFTER WORK.

DON'T BURN THE HOUSE DOWN WHILE I'M AWAY.

That is not the **burning** I fear.

"...THE *HELL* IS MY *PARTNER?* C'MON--"

--ANYONE SEEN MORGAN?

ANYONE? SERIOUSLY--

HE HAD AN APPOINTMENT, MIKE...

...SHOULD BE BACK IN AN HOUR OR SO...

HEY.

WELL THAT'S FUCKING *GREAT*, WE JUST CAUGHT A *BODY* IN SAPPHIRE...

ABOUT LAST NIGHT--

WE'LL TAKE IT, MIKE.

SERIOUSLY? THANK YOU, NICKY...

...YOU'RE A LIFESAVER, BABY.

CALL ME "BABY" AGAIN I'LL GIVE IT BACK, PERRINI.

MY BAD, SORRY.

COME ON.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

Inspector E.Prestes
Inspector N.Bellowes

...AND THIS IS *EVERYTHING*, IS IT...?

...*ALL* THE NOTES ON THE DUNRIDGE CASE, DETECTIVE CHAFFEY?

FAR AS I KNOW, YEAH.

SORRY, WHAT DOES *THAT* MEAN? YOU *DON'T* KNOW?

IT MEANS I CAN'T SPEAK FOR DETECTIVE BLACK...

...BUT THOSE ARE ALL OF *MY* NOTES, YES.

GOOD, THIS IS GOOD, DETECTIVE. MORGAN. I CAN CALL YOU MORGAN?

WHATEVER YOU LIKE, FERDINAND.

HEH, MORE THAN *FAIR.*

SO, MORGAN...

...THERE A *REASON* YOU THINK DETECTIVE BLACK MIGHT'VE BEEN LESS THAN *FORTHCOMING* WITH US?

WHY DON'T YOU ASK *HER*?
WE'RE *GOING* TO.
IN FACT, AS YOU ARE A POLICE DETECTIVE YOURSELF AND, BY ALL ACCOUNTS, *NOT* AN *IDIOT*...
...YOU CAN *EXTRAPOLATE* THAT WE SHALL ASK HER THE *SAME* QUESTIONS ABOUT *YOU*.
YOU KNOW, TO SEE IF YOU'VE GOT YOUR *STORIES* STRAIGHT.
WHAT STORIES? THERE ARE *NO* STORIES...
...BRUCE DUNRIDGE WAS *MURDERED*, WE WEREN'T ABLE TO *CLOSE* IT.
YOU THINK YOU CAN DO *BETTER* WITH IT, BE MY *GUEST*.
WE THINK WE *CAN*, YES.
WE THINK WE CAN *CLOSE* IT, IN FACT.

RIGHT, WE'RE *DONE.*

EITHER YOU *DO* THINK I'M AN *IDIOT,* OR YOU THINK SOMETHING *ELSE.*

WHICHEVER IT IS...

...YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT THIS SOME *MORE,* YOU CAN DO IT WITH MY *ATTORNEY* PRESENT.

WERE YOU FUCKING HER?

SAY THAT AGAIN.

IT WOULD *EXPLAIN* WHY YOU'VE BEEN *PROTECTING* HER.

UNLESS YOU DID IT *TOGETHER.*

YOU WANT TO SIT DOWN, NOW, MORGAN?

OR WOULD YOU *RATHER* GO GET THAT *ATTORNEY* YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?

EXCEPT YOU *KNOW* HOW THAT'LL LOOK.

YOU THINK SHE KILLED HIM.

NO. MURDERED. *EXECUTED.*

HANGED HIM BY THE *NECK* UNTIL HE CHOKED TO DEATH...

...*MUTILATED* HIS BODY, THEN *THREW* HIM IN THE RIVER...

WHY? WHY WOULD SHE DO IT?

DUNRIDGE RAPED AND MURDERED SARAH BELLE AND *WALKED* ON IT. YOU TWO COULDN'T MAKE IT *STICK.*

YOU KNOW WHY, AND WHAT'S *MORE,* DETECTIVE CHAFFEY...

...YOU THINK SHE DID IT, *TOO....*

URSULA'S
CRYSTAL
OOF.
YEAH.
THE TRAINS WEIGH OVER *FIFTY TONS*...
...DON'T NEED TO BE GOING THAT *FAST* TO DO A *LOT* OF DAMAGE.
AND THEY CALL IT *LIGHT* RAIL.
GOOD MORNING, LADIES...
...SORRY I'M *LATE*, HAD TO GRAB *BREAKFAST*.
MOST IMPORTANT MEAL OF THE DAY.
SO THEY SAY...
...CAN YOU HOLD THAT *UP* FOR ME, DETECTIVE COLT? THANK YOU.
THAT IS A *DECIDEDLY* TRAUMATIC BLUNT TRAUMA.
YOUR PROFESSIONAL OPINION?
YEAH, THE CITY DOESN'T PAY ME ENOUGH FOR THE *PERSONAL* ONES.

GOT A DRIVER'S LICENSE, HERE, NAME AND ADDRESS FOR A NORMAN MANZUKAS.

I'LL RUN THEM, BUT I GOT A FEELING HE'LL COME BACK CLEAN.

THINK THIS LOOKS LIKE WHAT IT *IS*.

YEAH...

...I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT, NICKY.

I'LL TALK TO THE DRIVER.

ANNE-
MARIE!

C'EST
LAURENT!

OÙ
EST-VOUS?

ANNE-
MARIE!

klak

DESACTIVE

DESACT

...LAURENT...
C'ÉTAIT STEPAN...

LAURENT...

...IL EST DEVENU FOU...

OH MY GOD, ANNE-MARIE...

I'M HERE, I'M HERE, NOW...

...LA MORT FINALE...

...IL A PRIS L'UN DES LIVRES...

...WITNESSES SAYING MANZUKAS WAITED UNTIL THE *TRAIN* APPROACHED THE PLATFORM...

...THEN TOOK THE *HEADER* IN FRONT OF IT. NOT A *DAMN THING* THE DRIVER COULD DO...

...WE TALKED TO THE VICTIM'S *BROTHER*, HE PUT US IN TOUCH WITH NORMAN'S *THERAPIST*.

IT'S THE FULL BOAT-- RECENTLY DIVORCED, DOWNSIZED, DEPRESSION, *ALL* OF IT.

THIS ONE IS A DUNKER, LIEUTENANT.

CLOSED IS *CLOSED*, DETECTIVE COLT, I'LL TAKE IT *WITHOUT* COMPLAINT.

QUITE THE *STREAK* YOU AND ROWAN ARE ON...

...LET'S SEE HOW *LONG* YOU TWO CAN KEEP IT *GOING*.

HEY!

C'MON, NICKY, *SLOW DOWN.*

WHAT THE *FUCK* IS THE MATTER WITH YOU, RO?

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT LAST--

NOT AT THE *OFFICE!*

JESUS, YOU *KNOW* WHAT PEOPLE WERE SAYING ABOUT *YOU* AND *CHAFFEY*, YOU WANT THAT ABOUT *US?*

I DON'T *CARE* WHAT THEY SAY IF IT'S *TRUE.*

YOU THINK THAT MAKES IT *BETTER?*

THAT IT'S *TRUE?* IT ABSOLUTELY *DOES...*

...IN FACT--

HEY--

--IT MAKES IT *GREAT.*

THERE'S *NOBODY* ELSE.

THERE'S *YOU.* THAT'S *IT.*

THIS IS FOR REAL?

IF YOU WANT.

IT IS FOR ME.

I WANT.

I'M NOT *ALONE* WHEN I'M WITH YOU, NICKY.

SLOWLY. *SLOWLY.*

YOU NEED *FLUIDS.*

NON... LAURENT, YOU MUST *LISTEN* TO ME.

STEPAN WOULD NOT *SPEAK* TO ME, DO YOU UNDERSTAND? NOT EVEN WHEN I *CONFRONTED* HIM.

HE DIDN'T WANT ME TO *KNOW*, WHICH MEANS HE DOES NOT WANT *YOU* TO KNOW.

LIE BACK--

STOP AND *LISTEN!*

THE *BOOK* HE STOLE, THE RITUAL IT DESCRIBES, IT IS THE MEANS TO *MURDER* A WITCH, TOTAL AND ABSOLUTE.

HE WILL DESTROY HER *UTTERLY.*

HE MEANS TO *END* THE *CYCLE* OF HER *LIVES.*

THEN HE IS A *FOOL.* WHAT I HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE WITCH OF THE BLACK, ANNE-MARIE...

...IF STEPAN COMES FOR HER, IT WOULD BE *SUICIDE.*

OH, YOU FOOL. LOVE MAKES YOU *BLIND*, CHILD. HE DOES NOT AIM FOR THE *BLACK*...

...HE MEANS TO TAKE THE WITCH OF THE GREY.

HOMICIDE REPORT

CE DEPARTMENT

CITY OF PORTSMO

LOR PERSON KILLED | FIRST NAME | MIDDLE NAME | RACE | SEX | AGE | RESIDENCE OF PERSON KILLED | OFFENSE SERIAL

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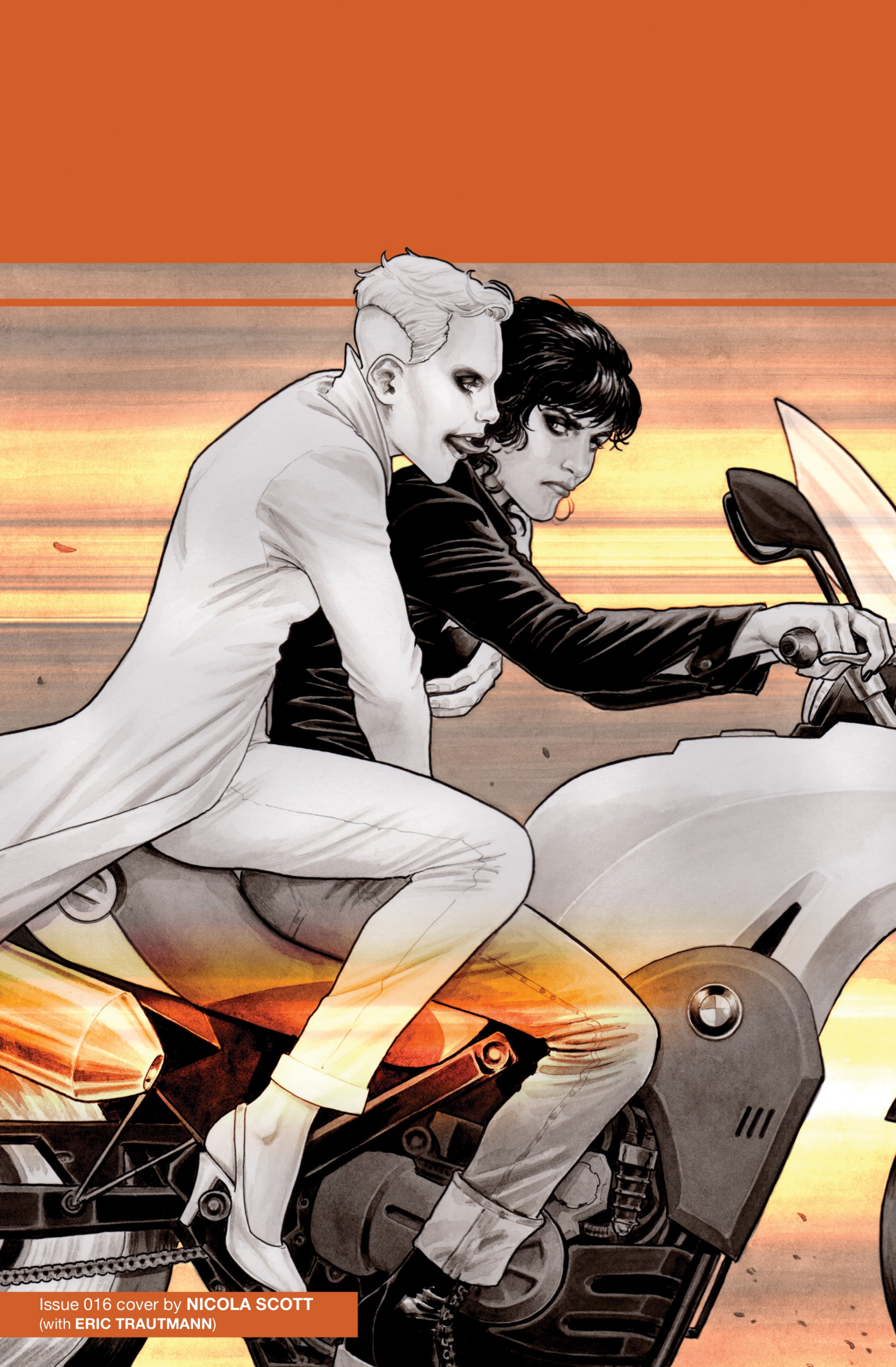

Issue 016 cover by **NICOLA SCOTT**
(with **ERIC TRAUTMANN**)

SKRRRCH SKRRC.

SCRNNCH KRAK

KRNNNCH SKKRCCH SKRCH

KRNNNCH
SKKRLCH
SKRCH

VEEP.
ATTEND ME, NOW.

MISTRESS...

...IT IS MY *HONOR* TO *SERVE* AT YOUR PLEASURE.

THE *SINCERITY* YOU MUSTER CONSISTENTLY *AMAZES* ME. I COULD *ALMOST* BELIEVE YOU.

YOU *WOUND* ME, MY MISTRESS.

I DO *NO* SUCH THING. YOU WILL *KNOW* WHEN I HAVE *WOUNDED* YOU.

I'M HEADING *OUT* FOR A BIT. I NEED YOU TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE PERFECT WHILE I'M *AWAY*...

...I DON'T WANT THEM GETTING ANY *IDEAS*.

I'LL BE BACK *SOON*....

SO, YOU WANT TO GRAB *DINNER*...

...YOU PICK THE *PLACE*, MY *TREAT*?

AND MAYBE WE CAN, Y'KNOW...

P2

...*TALK* ABOUT THIS THING SOME MORE, TRY TO FIGURE IT *OUT*, MAYBE?

I CAN'T, NICKY, I'M *SORRY*.

I'VE GOT A *PRIOR* ENGAGEMENT.

THIS YOUR *FRIEND* FROM LAST *NIGHT*?

OR MAYBE I SHOULD SAY FROM THIS *MORNING*?

ALEX, YEAH. ALEXANDRA.

I HAVEN'T BEEN...

...I'VE BEEN A *BAD* FRIEND LATELY. I NEED TO MAKE IT *UP* TO HER.

YOU GO BACK A WAYS?

OH, YEAH, SHE'S MY *OLDEST* FRIEND.

YOU CAN'T EVEN *IMAGINE*.

I DON'T WANT TO GET IN THE FACE OF THAT. TOO EARLY FOR ME TO BE GETTING *JEALOUS*, ANYWAY.

EVEN IF SHE *IS* A TOTALLY HOT BLONDE.

I HADN'T NOTICED.

THEN YOU'RE *BLIND*, BABY.

GIRL'S A *SMOKESHOW*.

WAIT, SO I SHOULD BE *JEALOUS*?

I GOT WHAT I *WANT*, ROWAN...

...AND I PLAN ON GETTING A LOT *MORE*, TOO.

WOOF.

SEE YOU TOMORROW, DETECTIVE BLACK.

YOU, TOO, DETECTIVE COLT.

UH...

...CAN I HELP YOU WITH SOMETHING, OFFICER?

I WAS THINKING YOU COULD *TAKE ME* FOR A *RIDE*, DETECTIVE.

JUST *YOU* AND *ME*?

WHAT DO YOU *SAY*?

I WANT YOU TO LEAVE ME *ALONE*.

I WANT YOU TO GO *AWAY*.

RELAX, ROWAN.

IT'S JUST YOU AND ME. NOBODY CAN *SEE* US, NOBODY CAN *HEAR* US...

...AT LEAST, NOT FOR THE *MOMENT*.

UNLESS YOU MAKE ME *CHANGE* MY *MIND*, THAT IS.

OH, COME ON--

--YOU CAN GO *FASTER* THAN *THIS!*

LIVE A LITTLE, DETECTIVE BLACK.

FEEL THE *WIND* IN YOUR *HAIR!*

RIGHT.

--SEE HER TONIGHT?

NO, SHE HASN'T SHOWN **UP**, YET.

YOU'RE BEHIND YOUR **WARDS?**

MY HOME IS WARDED, YES, LAURENT...

...**NOBODY** IS GETTING INSIDE **WITHOUT** MY PERMISSION.

WE **BOTH** KNOW THERE ARE **WAYS** PAST THAT.

YOU'RE CERTAIN HE'S AFTER **ME** AND NOT **ROWAN?**

ANNE-MARIE IS CERTAIN...

...AND I LONG AGO LEARNED TO TRUST HER IN SUCH MATTERS.

SHE SOUNDS LIKE A LOVELY LADY...

...I HOPE TO GET TO **MEET** HER, SOME DAY.

THAT WOULD BE NICE. **STRANGE,** BUT NICE.

LAURENT, THIS **RITUAL** YOUR MAN STOLE...

...I *HAVE* TO ASK, HOW DID AIRA *ACQUIRE* IT?

YOU ARE *REALLY* ASKING IF WE HAVE EVER *USED* IT.

I'M ASKING *WHY* AND *HOW* YOU WOULD COME INTO POSSESSION OF SOMETHING SO *VILE*, NEVER MIND IF YOU'VE *USED* SUCH A THING IN THE PAST...

...THE *RITUAL* YOU'RE DESCRIBING IS...IS...

BEYOND MURDER.

YES.

ALEXANDRA, *BELIEVE* ME. *WE* DID NOT CREATE SUCH A RITUAL, IT IS *FAR* BEYOND *OUR* SKILL TO FASHION SUCH A *MAKING*...

...ONLY *YOUR* KIND CAN.

OH.

I'M SORRY IF I *HURT* YOU SAYING SUCH THINGS--

NO, NO, YOU *AREN'T*...

...NOT AT *ALL*, YOU'RE *RIGHT*, OF COURSE.

HUNTER OR *WITCH*, DOESN'T *MATTER*. WE'RE ALL *HUMAN* IN THE END...

...AND *NO* DEMON CAN HOLD A *CANDLE* TO THE CRUELTIES *WE* CAN CREATE.

AND *THAT* IS WHY I AM AFRAID FOR YOU, ALEX, AFRAID OF WHAT *STEPAN* WILL DO.

YEAH, WELL...

...IF HE *WANTS* ME, HE'S GONNA HAVE TO *WORK* FOR IT, BABE.

OH, IT'S YOU...

...WELL, THIS IS A *PLEASANT* SURPRISE.

I WAS EXPECTING HER ROYAL *BITCHINESS*...

...AND INSTEAD I'M MET WITH *YOUR* POWERFUL *PRESENCE.*

PERFECT.

HOW CAN I *HELP* YOU?

MY LORD, I CANNOT BEGIN TO *COUNT* THE WAYS...

...BUT I CAN THINK OF A PLACE TO *START.*

YOU TRULY MUST THINK I'M A *FOOL.*

THE MISTRESS *WARNED* ME THAT YOU'D BE *UP* TO SOMETHING. I *KNOW* WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO *DO.*

MHM.

AND HOW AM I DOING?

DO NOT... *TEMPT* ME.

OH, MY SWEET LORD...

...OR A *DEMON* NOT TO *LIE...*

OH.

...YOU MIGHT AS WELL ASK *WATER* NOT TO BE *WET...*

OHHH HELL....

HAVE TO SAY, IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU *HAPPY*, ROWAN...

"...THOUGH I ADMIT I HADN'T IMAGINED YOU'D FIND *BLISS* WITH NICKY COLT."

GET *OUT* OF MY *HEAD.*

YOU'D RATHER I *SHOUT* IN YOUR *EAR?*

I'D RATHER YOU GOT THE FUCK *OUT* OF MY *LIFE...*

"...BUT SO FAR YOU HAVEN'T TAKEN THE HINT."

YOU COULD *MAKE* ME, YOU KNOW.

COULD I JUST?

BY YOUR *WILL* YOU COULD HAVE *ANYTHING* YOU DESIRE...

"...YET YOU *DENY* YOURSELF...

"...OVER AND OVER, YOU DENY *YOURSELF*..."

...YOU'RE SUCH A *HYPOCRITE.*

YOU CAN FUCK RIGHT OFF.

BUT YOU *ARE*...

"...YOU'VE BEEN THROWING YOUR WILL AROUND FOR *MONTHS.*

"TO FIND A *CLUE.* TO DISCOVER A *SUSPECT.* TO COMPEL A *CONFESSION*--"

WHAT DID YOU--

--AND THE *MORE* YOU DO--

--STEERING--

"--THE *STRONGER* YOUR WILL *BECOMES.*"

HUB

"AN' IT HARM NONE, DO WHAT YE WILL."

ISN'T THAT *RIGHT?*

Y-Y-YES...

MORE HYPOCRISY.

GARY FITZ *CONFESSED* WILLINGLY, DID HE?

SMILE

F-FITZ MUR-DER-ER...CHOSE T-TO...

YOU *STOLE* HIS *WILL*, ROWAN.

...N-NO...G-GAVE A-AWAY WH...WHEN HE KILLED...

SHHH, IT'S ALL RIGHT..

...I *APPROVE.*

FITZ *CHOSE* TO MURDER...

Y-YES...

...AND YOU CHOSE TO *PUNISH.*

AND NOW YOU CHOOSE TO *DIE.*

YOU COULD HEAL YOURSELF WITH A *WORD.*

BUT YOU *WON'T* DO IT, WILL YOU?

YOU COULD CUT THE SHAPE OF THE *WORLD* AND THE *CRASH* WOULD NEVER HAVE *HAPPENED.*

...MY CHOICE...

YOURS, YES.

NOT NICHOLE'S. NOT *ALEXANDRA'S.*

WHAT H-HAVE YO-YOU DONE--

SEE--

--FOR *YOURSELF.*

NO!

NO...NO...

...Y-YOU LIE... L-LYING...

YOU KNOW I AM NOT.

...NICKY...

...ALEX...

FAREWELL, ROWAN...

...YOU MADE YOUR CHOICE.

HNH NNHNN
By...
...my...
...WILL.

P152
GFL

KAF
KAFKOF

KAF KAF

WHAT I DO I DO FOR US ALL.

MFFMM! HMMFFF!

WHAT I DO I DO FOR THE ORDER. WHAT I DO I DO FOR MY EVERLASTING SOUL...

NHNNHNN!

...IN *DESTROYING* YOURS THAT YOU MAY *LIVE* NO MORE...

...THAT *ALL* YOUR LIVES SHALL--

klank

PORTSMOUTH
POLICE
0333

DO WHAT THOU WILT SHALL BE THE WHOLE OF THE LAW

A witch courted by demons.

A cop breaking the rules to enforce the law.

A woman besieged by Internal Affairs, the witch-hunters of *Aira*, the forces of Hell, and the sisters of her own coven.

Rowan Black is all these things, and more.

She's lost her partner, an unsolved homicide haunts her conscience, and the whiff of suspicion around her involvement is getting to her fellow cops. Even **Alexandra Grey**, her coven-mate and best friend for several lifetimes, can tell she's falling apart.

Rowan's usual techniques of wallowing in alcohol and sex aren't making her problems go away. Instead, a cadre of manipulative demons have dug in their claws all the deeper… and they're not threatening to hurt Rowan, but the people she cares about most.

Their ambition? For Rowan Black to revel in her own power and do anything she wants.

"HE CHOSE TO MURDER, AND YOU CHOSE TO PUNISH."

Praise for ***BLACK MAGICK***…

"Rucka and Scott continue to weave a grounded, ominous narrative that promises a few big threats just on the horizon ... subtle and haunting."

—ALEXANDER JONES, MULTIVERISTY COMICS

"...serves as the first entry in an all-new story, enticing readers both fresh and familiar to the world of ***BLACK MAGICK***, thanks not only to the mature and engaging blend of genres but also its compelling, sepia-toned art reminiscent of noir-tinged renaissance paintings."

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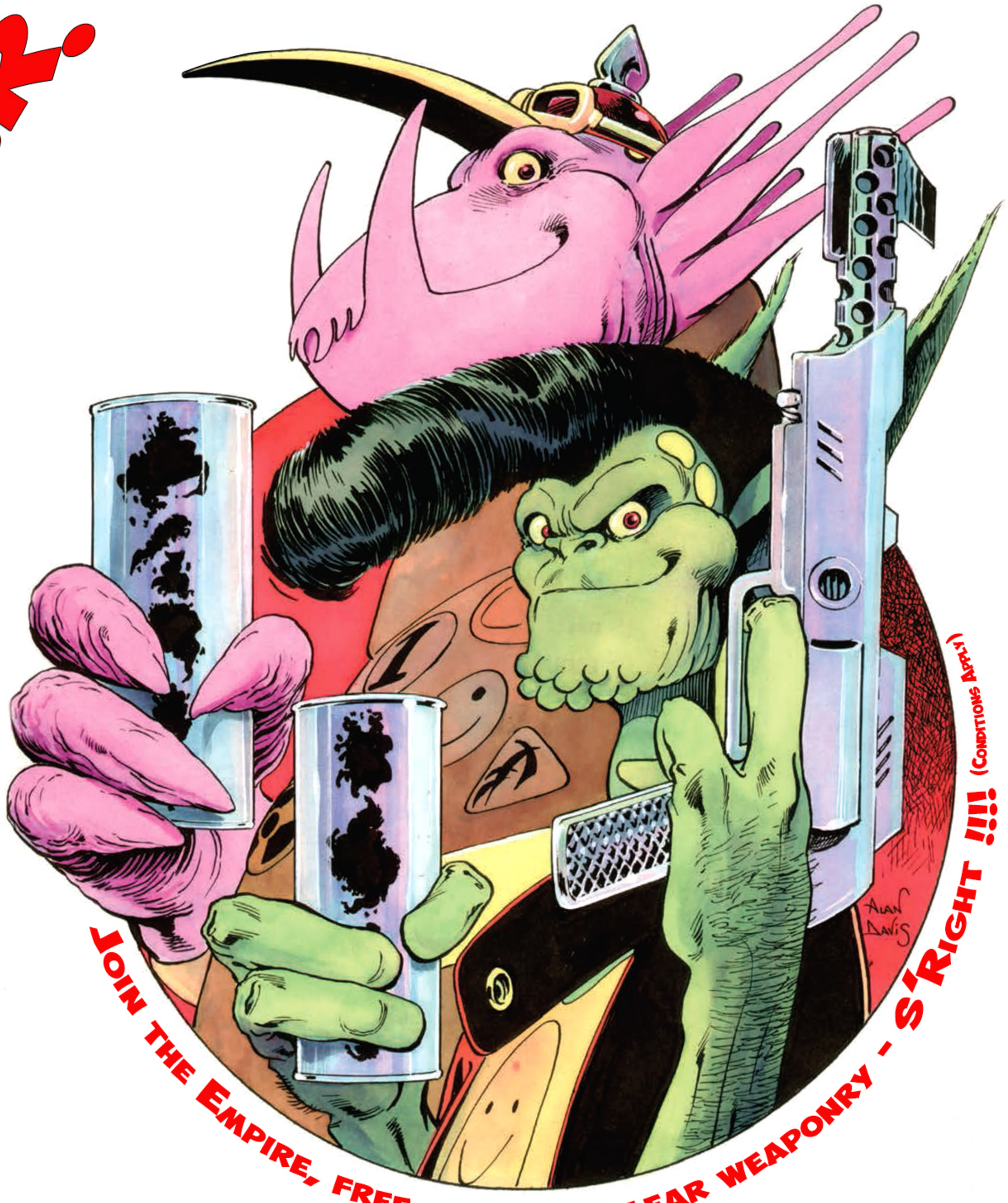

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K6 NW